



George Brandsberg

Research • Writing • Communications Consulting

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Ms. Dorothy C. Riehle, FOIA Officer
DOE Hanford Site
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Riehle,

This is a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. It is a follow-up to an e-mail request I sent you several weeks ago.

On May 4, 1961, an editor for Time, Incorporated, Baron Beshoar, sent a letter to Cecil Hughes, an attorney in Sundance, Wyoming, with suggestions for gathering information for a lawsuit which _____ of _____ were asking for nearly \$1 million in damages they claimed were caused by nuclear fallout that killed more than 400 head of sheep and sickened the _____ and their six children. They claimed their troubles started with an unusual snowstorm on April 17, 1959.

Among other things, Mr. Beshoar said in his letter:

“On March 31, 1959, there was an AEC accident in Richland, Washington. I don't know whether it could have caused fall out three states away, but it is something you might want to probe a bit.”

I have searched the Internet for some record of this alleged accident without any success. I mentioned this matter to representatives of the Reading Room at Hanford and they sent me two reports, “*Radionuclide Releases to the Atmosphere from Hanford Operations, 1944-1974*,” by C. M. Heeb, and “*A summary of Accidents and Incidents Involving Radiation in Atomic Energy Activities, June 1945 thru December 1955*” by D. F. Hayes, Atomic Energy Commission, August 1956. Neither of these reports mentions any nuclear accident occurring at Hanford on March 31, 1959.

However, on page vii of the Heeb report is Table S.1., which includes a line of data for the year 1959. Perhaps this might lead to clues about the alleged nuclear accident.

If an account of the alleged accident is found, I would be interested in learning about the details of it, including the cause, any injuries or deaths that occurred, dollar amount of damage that occurred and some measurement of the radionuclides that escaped.

I am willing to pay up to \$50 for a search for this information, if it is available. If the cost of a search exceeds \$50, I would like to have a cost estimate before the search is made.

Thanks for your help on this matter, Ms. Riehle

Cordially,

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